

REMARKS

Status Of The Claims

Claims 58-63 and 65-88 are pending in the present application. The Examiner has allowed claims 58-63 and 70-83. Claims 65 and 68 have been amended. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration in light of the following remarks.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 65-69 and 85-88 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner asserted that claims 65-68 and 85-88 are vague and indefinite because they do not specify the directional orientation of the “structures” limitation.

The applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of granting a telephonic interview on February 26, 2004. During the interview, the Examiner and applicant’s attorney discussed the pending indefiniteness rejection of claims 65-69 and 85-88. At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner agreed that claims 65-69 and 85-89 would be allowable if independent claims 65 and 68 were amended to reinstate the original claim language “extending generally in the longitudinal direction.” Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claims 65-69 and 85-88 as amended overcome the Examiner’s indefiniteness rejection and are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims in the present application are in condition for allowance.

AUTHORIZATION

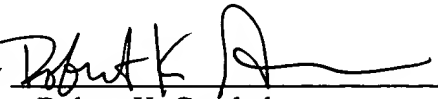
The Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are properly assessable to this case, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4303-4050US2.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4303-4050US2. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 27, 2004

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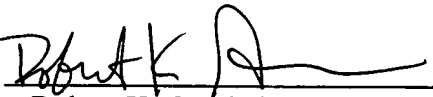
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